

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 19-21 have been added. Claims 1, 3, 7, 14 and 21 are independent.

The specification and claims have been amended to correct minor informalities including the informalities pointed out by the Examiner in objecting to the disclosure, and to clarify the invention according to U.S. practice. These modifications do not add new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-11 and 13-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maeda et al. (U.S. Patent 6,226,589). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 14, Maeda et al. is directed to computing guiding information to a mobile object selected by a requesting mobile object terminal using predetermined privacy setting level information, and transmitting the computed guiding information to the requesting mobile object terminal. Maeda et al., however, nowhere discloses or suggests the feature of “identifying the shortest distance between the user’s location and the other party’s location according to the ... traffic information” of the other party’s moving object, as recited in independent claim 7. Other independent claims recite similar features. In fact, Maeda et al.’s guiding information providing system does not at all involve traffic information of another party’s moving object. Thus, Maeda et al. clearly does not anticipate the invention as recited in independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 14 and their dependent claims (due to the dependency).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on these reasons are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. in view of Theimer et al. (U.S. Patent 6,240,363). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Maeda et al. does not teach or suggest the invention as set forth in independent claim 7 from which claim 12 depends. Furthermore, Theimer et al. does not overcome these deficiencies of Maeda et al. since Theimer et al. is merely relied on for teaching the use of a short message service (SMS). Thus, even if the references were combinable, assuming *arguendo*, the combination would still fail to teach or suggest the invention as recited in claim 7 from which claim 12 depends. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claims 19-21 depend from independent claims 7 and 14 and are thus believed to be allowable for the same reasons that their independent claims are allowable as discussed above. New independent claim 21 is also believed to be allowable since it contains similar subject matter as claim 7, which is believed to be allowable as discussed above. Accordingly, indication of allowance of claims 19-21 is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/775,226
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Docket No.: 3449-0303P
Art Unit: 3661
Page 22 of 22

CONCLUSION

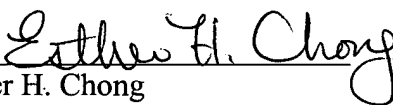
For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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